unimplemented during the last three years.

(b) The budgeted financial allocations for the Schemes were fully utilised.

(c) Does not arise.

Reservation of T. V. Serials for SC/ST Producers

335. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to reserve a certain quota of T. V. serials for SC and ST producers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Proposals for TV serials are approved on the basis of the merit of each proposal.

Export of Vegetables and Seasonal Fruits

336. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of vegetables and seasonal fruits have been on the increase during the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantum of foreign exchange earned during the said period, year-wise and the names of major items exported;

(c) whether any specific zone(s) in the country have been earmarked for installing food processing units; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what incentives are likely to be given to the farmers/growers who would supply their produce to these Units instead of selling to markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Export of fresh fruits and vegetables were of the following order during the last 3 years:

1985-86....	Rs. 90.84 crores
1986-87....	Rs 103.06 crores
1987-88....	Rs. 92.98 crores

Major fruits exported are mango, citrus, apples, pineapple and grape. Among vegetables the principal ones are onion, Bhendi, bitter gourd, chilly etc.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Damage of Crop due to Floods

337. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large quantity of Food Crops got damaged due to recent floods in various States;

(b) whether all these damaged crops are covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure disbursement of appropriate sums of insurance money to the actual victims without any scope of its being diverted fraudulently by any third party; and

(d) what further steps are being contemplated to help the farmers in utilising the post-flood soil condition to maximise the yields of rabi crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHR SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The Government is aware that Food Crops were damaged as a result of recent floods in some States.

(b) Out of the damaged crops, Wheat, Paddy, Millets, Oilseeds and Pulses crops are covered under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS).

(c) There is no scope of diversion of the payment of indemnity claims to the third parties because, such payments are made by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) by cheques drawn in favour of the Credit Disbursing Agencies/Banks which in turn credit them to individual bank accounts of farmers whose crops are covered under the CCIS.

(d) Steps contemplated to help the farmers in utilizing the post-flood soil conditions to maximise the yields of rabi crops include, optimum use of available moisture by growing those varieties of various crops which are suitable for late sowing conditions.

High Price of Steel Produced in India

338. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will he Minister of STEEL AND MINES be leased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although he basic raw materials are available ithin the country, the prices of arious types of steel produced in India re much higher than these produced ven in countries like Japan and orea who are to resort to import of aw materials for producing steel;

(b) whether any study has been nducted to identify the main reasons sponsible for this high price factor Indian steel; if so, details thereof; id

(c) what steps are being taken to use reduction in cost/price of the eel produced in India and within hat time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) The domestic prices of Indian Steel net of taxes and levies are broadly comparable with domestic prices in major countries like Japan, U.S.A. and EEC countries. In India, apart from the producer's costs, the price of steel includes various levies such as the freight equalisation fund, the Steel Development Fund, the Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund, excise duty, etc.

(c) Steps taken/being taken by the main producers in India to contain the cost of production include raising capacity utilisation, increasing productivity, improving techno-economic performance including energy saving, and improved maintenance and modernisation of equipment.

Development of Major Urban Centres of the Country

339. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that density of population in the major cities *viz.*, Bombay, Bangalore, Calcutta, Delhi, Kanpur and Madras have grown disproporationate to its existing infrastructures;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted with a view to ensure propoer development of big cities, in particulars; and

(c) what schemes are being formulated to ensure healthy expansion of these major urban centres in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Growth of population in these major cities has resulted in increased pressure on the existing infrastructure facilities.

(b) and (c) Development of big cities is the concern of State Govt/ UTs. and the concerned Planning Departments and Development Authorities have prepared their respec-